

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A device for removing sparks or other hot particles from a gaseous stream comprises a housing (10) with an inlet (12) and an outlet (14) for the gaseous stream and means for removing the sparks or other particles.

~~characterized in that~~ wherein a bulk ceramic or mineral material is provided inside the housing in an inlet region facing the inlet (partition 20) and in an outlet region facing the outlet (partition 22), that the bulk material is arranged in the housing in such a way that the entire gaseous stream is forcibly guided through the bulk material,
and that the path followed by the gaseous stream through the bulk material is determined in such a way, depending on the type and grain size of the material, that the gaseous stream is substantially free from sparks after the outlet region.

2. (currently amended) Device according to claim 1,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the material inside the housing is caught between two perforated, spaced-apart partitions (20, 22).

3. (currently amended) Device according to claim 2,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the space between the partitions (20, 22) has at least one closeable opening (openings 24, 26) for filling and emptying the space.

4. (currently amended) Device according to claim 3,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein one closeable opening for filling and one closeable evacuation opening are provided.

5. (currently amended) Device according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 4,~~

~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the housing has at least one compressed air inlet (32) for cleaning purposes.

6. (currently amended) Device according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 5,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the housing has at least one water inlet.

7. (currently amended) Device according to claim 5 ~~and/or 6,~~
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the inlets open in the direction of flow into the housing (10) upstream or downstream from the space between the partitions.

8. (currently amended) Device according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 7,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the material has a microporous surface.

9. (currently amended) Device according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 8,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the material is expanded clay.

10. (currently amended) Device according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 7,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the material is gravel.

11. (currently amended) Device according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 10,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the material has a grain size of approximately 5 – 15 mm.

12. (currently amended) Device according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 10,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the thickness of the bulk material in the direction of flow is defined such that the duration of contact between the gas and the material is between about 0.1 and 2 seconds.